Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please ***cancel claims 1-18***, without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter thereof, and ***amend claims 19-22 and 24-28***, without prejudice, as shown below in the following listing of all claims ever presented. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1-18. **(Canceled)**

19. **(Currently Amended)** A ~~metal-coated~~ composite article ~~material~~ comprising:

(a) a ~~metal-graphite composite~~ substrate comprising a metal-graphite composite material having a carbon fiber content, wherein the substrate has ~~having~~ at least one surface ~~that is substantially free of graphite~~ having a reduced carbon fiber content which is 10% or less of the carbon fiber content of the material;

(b) a metal-containing intermediate layer located on a surface of the substrate; and

(c) a metal coating on the intermediate layer.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The composite article ~~material~~ of claim 19, wherein the at least one surface of the composite material is hermetically sealed.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The composite article ~~material~~ of claim 19, wherein the at least one surface of the composite material is corrosion resistant.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The composite article ~~material~~ of claim 19, wherein the at least one surface of the composite material is both hermetically sealed and corrosion resistant.

23. **(Canceled)**

24. **(Currently Amended)** The composite article ~~material~~ of claim 19, wherein the composite material is selected from the group consisting of aluminum graphite composite materials, aluminum alloy graphite composite materials, and combinations of the foregoing.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The composite article ~~material~~ of claim 19, wherein the composite material has a carbon fiber content ranging from about 15 wt.% to about 60 wt.%.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The composite article ~~material~~ of claim 19, wherein the metal-containing intermediate layer comprises a zinc-containing material.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The composite article ~~material~~ of claim 19, wherein the metal-containing intermediate layer comprises a zincate.

28. **(Currently amended)** A metal-coated metal graphite composite material comprising:

(a) a ~~metal-graphite composite~~ substrate comprising a metal-graphite composite material having a carbon fiber content, wherein the substrate has ~~having~~ at least one surface ~~that is substantially free of graphite~~ having a reduced carbon fiber content which is 10% or less of the carbon fiber content of the material;

(b) a metal-containing intermediate layer located on a surface of the substrate; and

(c) a metal coating on the intermediate layer,

wherein the composite material is made by a method comprising:

(1) removing graphite from at least one surface of a metal graphite composite material by oxidizing the metal graphite composite material at a temperature of at least 250°C, or by use of vibratory finishing techniques, plasma stripping techniques, glow discharge techniques, mechanical blasting techniques, lapping techniques, or combinations of any of these;

(2) chemically cleaning or plasma etching the at least one surface of the metal graphite composite material;

(3) applying a metal-containing material to the surface of the chemically cleaned or plasma etched metal graphite composite material, and thereby forming an intermediate layer; and

(4) applying a metal coating on the intermediate layer, and thereby forming the metal-coated metal graphite composite material.

29. **(Original)** The composite material of claim 28, wherein the metal-coated metal graphite composite material formed in step (4) has a surface that is hermetically sealed or corrosion-resistant or both hermetically sealed and corrosion resistant.

30. **(Previously presented)** The composite material of claim 28, wherein graphite is removed from at least one surface of the metal graphite composite material by plasma stripping techniques.